

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A stable pharmaceutical composition of erythropoietin (EPO), which consists essentially of:

- a. a therapeutically effective amount of EPO
- b. a pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering system, and
- c. polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP)

and optionally

a poloxamer as an additional stabilizer,

d. an isotonifying agent and/or

e. one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipient(s) selected from the group consisting of polyols, hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, macrogol esters and ethers, glycol and glycerol esters, and amino acids.

Claim 2. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, which is free of additives derived from human and/or animal origin.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition is aqueous.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the pharmaceutical quantity of EPO is formulated to provide a quantity per dose in the range of about 500 to about 100000 IU EPO.

Claim 5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical quantity is formulated to provide a quantity per dose selected from the group consisting of about 1000 IU, about 2000IU, about 3000IU, about 4000 IU, about 10000IU, about 20000 IU, about 25000 IU and about 40000 IU.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH range from about 6 to about 8.

Claim 7. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH range from about 6.8 to about 7.5.

Claim 8. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH of about 7.0.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 8, wherein the pH buffering system is phosphate buffer.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 9, wherein PVP is comprised in a range of about 0.01% to about 1%.

Claim 11. (Original) The composition of claim 10, wherein PVP is comprised in a range of about 0.1% to about 1%.

Claim 12. (Original) The composition of claim 10, wherein the concentration of PVP is about 0.5%.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 12, wherein said PVP has a K value in a range from K12 to K18.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 13, wherein said isotonifying agent is selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts.

Claim 15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said isotonifying agent is NaCl.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The use of PVP as the sole stabilizer for the ~~stabilisation~~ stabilization of erythropoietin (EPO) in an aqueous solution.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a composition containing erythropoietin (EPO), comprising mixing EPO with PVP, wherein the composition of ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 16 is prepared.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) Use of a composition of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 15 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases indicated for erythropoietin (EPO).